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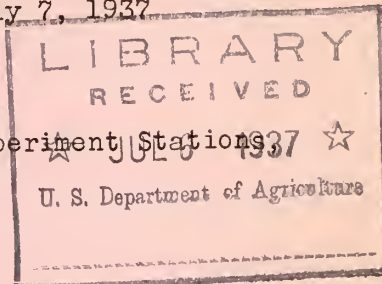
HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Wednesday, July 7, 1937

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "FRUIT NEWS." Information from the Office of Experiment Stations
United States Department of Agriculture.

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Listeners, Americans are supposed to have the biggest appetite for fruit of any people on earth. And if the scientists at the different State agricultural experiment stations go on developing new varieties of fruits as they have been doing in recent years, Americans are likely to eat more fruit than ever.

News of new fruits is what I have to tell you about today -- fruit recently announced by experiment station workers in several States. Before long you may be buying these new products at your market or raising them in your own gardens and orchards.

At the South Dakota Station horticulturists have been searching for better fruits that can withstand the bitter cold of winter and the drying summer winds of the North Central States. So they have been crossing their native hardy fruit trees with species from other parts of the country which have other desirable qualities. And last year they reported some very promising results -- new apples, crabapples and plums that appear to be both hardy and of fine quality.

At the nearby Minnesota Station scientists have much the same problem in fruit breeding as in the Dakotas. And they reported last year 2 new fruits already satisfactory enough to receive names. One of these is the Beacon apple; the other is the Ember plum. The Beacon apple they describe as of an attractive solid red color, maturing a few days later than the Oldenburg which it resembles and superior in flavor and handling quality. As for the new Ember plum, they say that it is yellow with a glowing red blush and of good quality and they also say that the tree is vigorous and produces a large crop of fruit.

At the New Jersey Station they have for years been making a special study of peaches. And if the 15 new varieties of peaches which they announced during the past year are as tempting as the names suggest, any housewife-shopper will want to be watching for them when they come on the market. Just listen to the names of these new New Jersey peaches: Buttercup, Delicious, Eclipse, Golden Jubilee, Goldfinch, Marigold, Primrose, Radiance, Rosebud, Sunbeam, Cumberland, Massasoit, Meteor, and Pioneer. Some of these, the scientists report, are already replacing older commercial varieties.

Both the New Jersey and Virginia Stations announced last year new peach varieties without fuzz -- nectarines, to use the special name for a smooth-skinned peach. The New Jersey scientists introduced the Garden State -- a fuzzless peach which grows as large as 2 and a half inches in diameter, and is the largest nectarine produced in the East, they say. It is a freestone peach with a smooth red skin, firm juicy flesh and ripens in mid-August.

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Of course, the Georgia workers are breeding peaches, too, and last year reported a new Hale type variety which is self-fruitful.

North Dakota workers have been experimenting to find apricots suited to growing in that State. They brought in some hardy Siberian apricots and crossed them with fine California apricots.

Now let me tell you about a new orange and 3 new mandarin varieties announced by the California scientists at the Riverside Station. The new orange is the Trovita which they produced from seeds of the Washington Navel orange which is usually seedless. Tests so far indicate that the Trovita will be a good variety for growing in some of the drier California valleys. As for the new mandarins, they go by the names of Kara, Kinnow and Wilking.

For 16 years now the scientists at the New York State Station and the New York Botanical Gardens have been studying the nature and cause of seedlessness in grapes. And in the course of that study they found a new hardy seedless grape. This new grape was christened the Bronx Seedless. The New York scientists say that it is a red slip-skin grape like the Delaware but that the bunches and the grapes themselves are much larger. Because of its delicate soft texture they suggest that it is a good variety for local use by home gardeners and for selling at roadside stands. The New York workers have several other new promising grapes of the seedless type but they have not named them yet.

Raspberry news comes from three different States -- Iowa, New York, and North Dakota. As you may know, raspberry bushes suffer from many things -- from heat and drought, from several different diseases, and from certain insect pests. The scientists have been working to produce new raspberry varieties that will avoid these troubles. The Iowa Station reported last year new black raspberry seedlings produced by crossing the Black Pearl and the Quillan varieties, which resist the disease called anthracnose, are vigorous, gives high quality fruit. One seedling ripens so early that the whole crop can be harvested before the usual period for hot weather and drought to set in. Then, New York State named 4 new raspberries last year: a vigorous black raspberry called Evans; the Taylor red raspberry which has very large fruit of long conic shape and delicious flavor the Indian Summer which produces a large crop of fall berries as well as a desirable spring crop and the Marcy red raspberry named for Mount Marcy, the highest peak in New York State. March bushes are reported to produce more fruit than the Taylor and to be somewhat resistant to virus disease. But speaking of raspberries, you should see the new purple raspberry which the North Dakota scientists brought out last year. Purple is its color, not its name. It is a cross between red and black raspberries and is very resistant to red spider.

If you like pears, you will be glad to hear that the New York State scientists are now recommending to growers 6 of their new varieties of pears -- 2 new Seckel type pears and 4 new Bartlett type varieties. These 6 new pears have been bred to resist that serious affliction of pears in this country -- pear blight. And the scientists say that these varieties are less susceptible to blight than other sorts now grown and have many other desirable fruit and tree qualities. In fact, the new Bartletts promise to prolong the season for that variety of pear until Christmas or later.

That gives you just a glimpse, listeners, of what the State experiment stations are doing to help the country's fruit growers and the country's fruit eaters. The news is reported to you as the stations themselves reported it to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
